

From: Norbert Cartagena
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 10:22pm
Subject: Rewards?

To who it may concern;

Since when is the United States in the habit of rewarding Monopolists by allowing them to extend their sphere of influence? Microsoft offers to settle by giving under powered computers to schools, loaded with their over-priced software. In this case, even valuing the software at \$.01 is over-priced. This is tantamount to letting a criminal value the worth of his own dollar in a cash settlement ("Yes, this dollar should be valued in 1951 standards..."). Furthermore, what has been offered is the equivalent of having told a Gasoline monopolist that their punishment is to put MORE gas stations up in neighborhoods where they don't hold a monopoly. In this case, however, when you put their gasoline in your car you could put no other products other than theirs - gas, oil, transmission fluid, etc. - or those approved by them.

I believe the reasoning behind your decision is based on your lack of knowledge of the REAL issue at hand. Microsoft has never been a monopoly because of their Internet browser. So what if they've endowed their Operating System (OS) with web browsing capabilities? Unix has had the same abilities for over 30 years! The problem is their licensing agreements with computer manufacturers, which state that any company that distributes Windows with their computers is NOT ALLOWED to display support for ANY other OS. How do you justify one company controlling the policies of another separate and private entity? Whatever happened to an open economic system?

If you truly want to punish them for their monopolistic practices, you will do the following:

1) Agree to the Red Hat proposition which would force Microsoft to buy 1,000,000 computers instead of 200,000. Red Hat has agreed to install their industry standard Operating System, Linux, for free on all 1,000,000 computers, complete with all source code (something which you are now battling Microsoft to open up). If you feel uncomfortable with one company installing their own operating system on all systems, then you can also enlist the help of various other Linux companies, such as SuSE A.G., MandrakeSoft, TurboLinux, eSmith, as well as Non corporate entities, such as the Debian Linux Project and the Free Software Foundation. All with full source code, all with open standards, all who work with the air of cooperation in their business dealings. This would, of course, include the support of Linux's creator, Linux Torvalds, of Transmeta, Inc.

2) Force them to open up their File Format standards and specifications

(this is the extension on your documents, such as .doc for a MS Word Document and .xls for an Excel style sheet). This would force the company's products to compete in an equal playing field with other office suites, such as Corel's WordPerfect and Sun's StarOffice, as well as non corporate entities such as the Open Office project and AbiSource.

3) Force the company to recant all licensing stipulations which call for their products to have a place of exclusivity on any other company's distributed system. Directly, DO NOT allow them to "own" the boot sector of any machine in which their Operating system is installed. This would allow Hardware companies such as Dell and Compaq to pre install other Operating systems, such as Linux and BeOS (as well as any new operating system which might appear) and give them equal prominence in a system, allowing the end consumer to make the decision, thereby allowing a truly open and free market to balance itself out.

Thank you for your time and may God grant you the wisdom to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Norbert Omar Cartagena
Voter

Do You Yahoo!?

Get your free @yahoo.com address at <http://mail.yahoo.com>